

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to approve the proposal from Dan McCauley for construction of two (2) art pedestals less the contribution of materials by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson.

SPECIAL CALL ITEMS/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Discuss and Consider Possible Revision to the General Order of the City Council Agenda

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said staff has been trying to figure out a way to provide better communication between the City Council, City Manager and staff. He said one way to help facilitate that would be to shift the general order of the agenda and move *Reports/Staff Communications* closer to the beginning of the meeting after the *Consent Calendar* items. He noted that the City Manager Report including updates from all departments would be provided in the City Council packet with the other agenda items. He said this would allow staff members to be available for questions from the Council then be excused, provided they have no pending items before the Council.

Mayor Wilson asked what time City Hall closes and if it would allow staff enough time to get to the 6:30 council meeting.

City Manager Knopp noted that City Hall closes at 5:00 however; the finance staff and the City Clerk work until 5:30 p.m. He said it does not include the Public Works staff as their shift ends at 4:30.

Councilmembers thought the change would be a great step forward.

City Manager Knopp noted that there might be some additional verbal updates to the Council since the written updates will be provided to the City Manager on the Wednesday before the Friday publication of the agenda creating a little lag time between submittal of the reports and the council meeting.

Mayor Wilson brought up the idea of staff getting the Council packets out sooner than Friday evening, possibly Thursday afternoon.

City Manager Knopp was to report back to Council on the feasibility of moving the publication of agenda packets up a day.

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to approve the revision of the general order of the City Council Agenda as proposed. Motion carried 5-0.

Approve Landscaping Plan for City Hall Porch Project

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said the most efficient way in moving forward with completion of the ADA Porch Project would be to complete the landscaping including replanting the preexisting Rhododendrons, adding drip irrigation, installing weed blocker and

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chips, and doing additional landscaping. He estimated \$3,000 for the cost of materials with the funds coming out of the City Manager budget.

Councilmember Strahan said she attempted to make contact with someone from the Triangle Garden Club but was unsuccessful. She commented that she did talk to the Superintendent of the Rio Dell School and learned that the 8th grade students are interested in a school project and would like to help with the landscaping efforts. She said that this is a great community project and mentioned the possibility of getting donations from some of the local businesses such as Root 101. She volunteered her time in coordinating the project.

Council concurred.

Motion was made by Johnson/Garnes to direct staff to move forward with completion of the landscaping at City hall as a result of the ADA porch project. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss and Set Priorities for 2018

City Manager Knopp provided a staff report and said in 2017, the Council underwent a priority setting exercise that listed individual councilmembers priorities for the year. He said staff is recommending the same type of exercise for 2018 and provided an overview of the priority setting exercise. A list of past and current priorities and the status of each item was provided.

City Manager Knopp noted that the broader areas of priority during the 2017 priority setting session included Public Works, Economic Development, and Planning. More specifically, priority projects for Public Works included street improvements, resolution to the habitat parcel and I & I mitigation. Related to Economic Development, it was the Cannabis Tax Measure and development of the former Eel River Sawmill site. In Planning, the highest priority was Proposition 64 and the City Code in general related to marijuana.

He then reviewed the list of staff recommended projects for 2018 and pointed out that the list can be used to help the Council identify important priorities although there may be other items they wish to add to the list.

City Manager Knopp noted a correction to the priorities under the Community Development Department and said the third bullet should read, "Update of the Housing Element" rather than the Land Use Element.

City Manager Knopp asked Councilmembers to identify any additional topics they would like to see added to the list.

Mayor Wilson said he would like to see labor negotiations occur closer to the June 30, 2018 contract expiration date. He commented that he had spoken to the City Attorney and he suggested negotiations begin with a closed session. He said he would like to begin labor negotiations sooner than later and suggested a closed session be scheduled perhaps at the next regular meeting of March 20, 2018.

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He also expressed the importance of video recordings of City Council meetings and suggested staff arrange for Humboldt Access to come and provide a presentation to the Council with a solid quote on what the annual cost would be to provide the service.

Councilmember Garnes provided a handout on Greenfields Outdoor Fitness (attachment 1 to these minutes) and presented the idea of establishing an active fitness program for people of all ages, including seniors with the placement of outdoor fitness equipment in public areas throughout the City. She said this type of fitness equipment is becoming popular in other areas allowing family members and friends the opportunity to exercise together on units suited to their individual needs and abilities. She said it would be a good opportunity for people to get healthy and come together as a community like the way Rio Dell used to be.

She said she talked to Nick Angeloff as President of the Chamber of Commerce and he indicated that he would be willing to solicit donations from businesses to help defray some of the costs. She noted that the cost for a cluster of seven (7) different pieces of equipment, which would allow 18 people to use at the same time, is approximately \$33,000; 11 pieces would be \$54,000 excluding the cost of labor to install the units.

Mayor Wilson asked about possible vandalism of the equipment.

Councilmember Garnes said this type of exercise equipment was installed in the Los Angeles area and there has been no problem with vandalism. She pointed out that the Fireman's Park does not have a problem with vandalism with regard to the playground equipment.

Councilmember Strahan questioned the possibility of incorporating the project into the proposed Skateboard Park Project.

City Manager Knopp informed the Council of a statewide Park Bond Measure coming before the voters in November. If approved, Rio Dell would be the recipient of \$200,000 for qualified grant projects. He noted that this is the first time in 10 years or so that money has been allocated for parks grants. As such, this year is a good time to discuss possible parks projects such as this.

Julie Woodall addressed the Council and suggested the City consider collaborating with the Fire Department to place the exercise equipment there rather than in an open field where people would feel isolated.

Councilmember Garnes was not necessarily opposed to the idea but said at the same time; seniors do not always want to combine their activities with kid's recreational activities. She said the Davis Street Park or the Triangle Park might be locations that are more suitable.

Nick Angeloff addressed the Council and said there could be various stations across town. He commented that he sees a lot of people out walking and having them at locations along routes they walk would be convenient noting there are plenty of options to consider. He said the

Chamber would be happy to help get businesses involved and also to support grant opportunities.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson commented that Reno, Nevada has these type of units placed along the Truckee River and the Benbow State Park had ten (10) or so workout stations years ago which he took advantage of when he worked in the area.

The consensus of the Council was to support the project.

Councilmember Strahan commented on Public Works priorities and said that first she would like to take a tour of the City and identify the worse streets and specifically identify street improvements by priority.

Mayor Wilson referred to the *Development of a Streets Plan* as identified under Public Works priorities for 2018.

City Manager Knopp explained that the plan directly ties into Measure X revenue and development of the Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park. He said that one of things that need to occur is to look at the plans and documents that have already been created. He said the information needs to be collated into a 5-year plan to minimize costs and avoid paving a street that has to be torn up for replacement of water or sewer lines. He said the priority should not necessarily be on the worse streets but on the high traffic areas and bus routes to get the most benefit.

Councilmember Strahan questioned how current the City's maps are related to water and sewer pipes in the City and said her father (Nally Enterprises) in previous years did a lot of infrastructure projects in the city and that she may be able to locate some of the plans.

City Manager Knopp noted that a lot of the City's water and sewer distribution system predates the incorporation of the City although the City does have some data.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen stated that the City has maps of infrastructure going back to 2006 and that the last GIS was updated in 2004.

City Manager Knopp pointed out that unfortunately, it will not be possible to replace all of the water and sewer distribution lines before streets are paved.

Councilmember Strahan expressed the importance of tracking all revenues and expenditures related to the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park.

Mayor Wilson said he likes the way the budget calendar is broken up by department and asked where the Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park (HRDBP) falls under the revised calendar.

Finance Director Woodcox said it would be included under the discussion of the General Fund and Police Department on April 24th.

Mayor Wilson said that staff has indicated that the City is not contributing any money toward the development of the Park but it seems a lot of staff time is being spent aside from the Planning Department staff time. He noted that the Council needs to understand all City costs associated with the development of the park including all staff time.

Each Councilmember was then provided with a different color sticky note pad and asked to list their top five individual priorities for 2018. The priorities were placed on a board under the appropriate subject matter.

The priorities included the following items:

- Improved River Access at Edwards Dr.
- Street Repairs
- Exercise Park
- POST Certification
- Habitat Parcel
- Nuisance Abatement/Illegal Camping
- Code Enforcement
- Completion of Trail to River Bar from Painter St.
- Labor Negotiations
- Access Humboldt/Video Recordings of Meetings
- Roads and Infrastructure
- Water Capacity at Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park
- Current up-to-date Public Works Records
- Streets Plan
- Information on Water Board Violations
- Progress of Humboldt Rio Dell Business Park
- Distribution of Measure X Revenue (Public Safety and Streets)

City Manager Knopp commented that staff would collate the information into a written report and bring it back to Council on March 20th for further discussion. He identified the top three priorities as 1) Public Works, 2) Public Safety, and 3) Development of the City.

REPORTS/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Knopp referred to the staff update provided in the Council packet and said as suggested by the Council, staff is changing the method of reporting on current activities and events to Council. He said rather than providing a City Manager Update to the Council at the meeting going through every item, a full written staff update will be included in the Council

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packet and placed on the regular agenda allowing the Council to comment or ask questions of staff on any item. He then referred to the last page of the update under Humboldt-Rio Dell Business Park and noted that regarding the temporary units for Glen White's project, the matter will be coming before the Planning Commission for approval, possibly at their next meeting on March 27th.

Mayor Wilson asked for the definition of a *"temporary unit or building."*

City Manager Knopp explained that temporary units are trailers or mobile units that can be removed and there is typically a time restriction for a maximum of six months.

Mayor Wilson stressed the importance of staff being diligent in maintaining the 6-month temporary use rule.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson commented on the five reported water leaks and asked if that is the new normal.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen said the leaks occurred over a 2-week period and that he was not sure, if they were due to the age of the lines or due to road traffic but noted that they do seem to be popping up more regularly. He said the breaks usually occur at the joint of the saddle to the main.

Councilmember Garnes asked if the zip code boundary adjustment would take the 95562 zip code across the river to the HRDBP.

City Manager Knopp explained that the City is asking for all areas within Rio Dell City limits to have the same 95562 zip code and expected to get a response from the postal service by the end of April.

Mayor Wilson asked if there has been an update from LAFco regarding the Sphere of Influence related to the City's wastewater disposal field in Metropolitan.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson noted that the Sphere of Influence is reviewed every five years and LAFco is in the process now of completing the review.

Councilmember Strahan had questions related to the water connections to the HRDBP and asked if it is true that the same pipe would be used to pump water from the City's current system; if there is enough water to supply the park from the existing water supply; and what happened to the plan of supplying water from the Metropolitan Wells.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen explained that the future water consumption at the HRDBP is unknown at this time but the city's water system has the capability of pumping 600 gallons a minute and the Metropolitan Wells 300 gallons a minute. The average current water usage of the City is 220,000 gallons/day so water supply is not a concern. He said the

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Metropolitan Wells have been reclassified from an emergency water source to a secondary water source so the existing water line can be used to pump water both directions if necessary.

Councilmember Strahan asked for reassurance that residents would have priority status for water over the businesses at the HRDBP in the event of a drought.

City Manager Knopp explained that because of health and safety concerns, residential water users would have higher priority.

Councilmember Strahan said staff needs to make sure the stakeholders are aware of that.

Water/Roadways Superintendent Jensen clarified that the main reason the City is supplying water is to allow for adequate flows for fire protection. He said some of the businesses may rely on private wells to supply water for their business operations.

Mayor Wilson pointed out that there are new innovative measures with regard to the cannabis industry that require significantly less water. He said they could also be allowed to truck in water during an emergency if the Council amends the ordinance, noting that Humboldt Community Services District has an abundance of water and could provide all the water they need. He commented that the City has been pro-active regarding a plan in the event of a water shortage emergency.

City Manager Knopp explained that when the City was forced to conserve water it was because the State applied broad curtailment measures for everyone although there was no real physical water shortage in Rio Dell. He said the Governor focused on tight restrictions for residential consumers but businesses were not held to those same restrictions.

Mayor Wilson added that the State was forced to rescind some of the rules because they had to prove there was a water shortage in individual areas based on the flows in the river. Rio Dell's flows showed there was enough water so the restriction was increased to 50 gallon/day per person. He added that Rio Dell citizens voluntarily reduced consumption by 50% during the statewide drought, which is commendable.

Councilmember Strahan said when development of the Dinsmore Plateau was proposed, they were told there was not enough water to supply that development and asked what changed between then and now.

City Manager Knopp explained that the Dinsmore Plateau is served by a different system and it was a question of infrastructure and how to get the water there rather than whether there was enough water.

Chief of Police Conner reported the number of arrests was up over the last five days and said they served a search warrant on the 500 block of Wildwood Ave. and arrested three (3) people

including a 65-year-old woman on possession of $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. of methamphetamines and a moderate amount of marijuana concentrates.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson reported that he would be attending the first Quarterly League of California Cities meeting in Cloverdale on Friday.

He said with regard to staff, he contacted the Police Department regarding an incident related to a stolen Renner credit card and \$3,200 in fuel charges and said ten minutes after his call, Sergeant Beauchaine was at his door with a report. He said he wanted to commend the Police Department for their quick responses to calls.

He also thanked the Finance Director for her quick response in providing him requested backup information on a tax related issue.

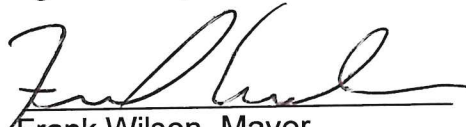
He added that the League of California Cities packet sent online was copied and put in his mailbox by the City Clerk before he could even ask her to do it. He said he just wanted to give staff a pat on the back for doing a good job.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson then complimented Councilmember Marks on the "In God We Trust" sign he did for the City.

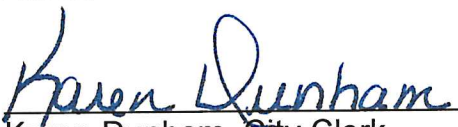
Mayor Wilson reported on his attendance at the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) meeting and said the board approved the budget and lowered electric charges \$1.00/month on the generation side. He said the common belief among customers is that the RCEA portion of the PG&E bill is in addition to the regular bill, which is not the case. He said that PG&E complicated things so customers are confused but noted that everyone on the CCE program saves between 2.7 - 3%. He said they are working on ways to prove it and relay that information on the RCEA website. He said he supports the Community Choice Energy (CCE) Program as it does benefit the rate payers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Wilson/Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. to the March 20, 2018 regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.


Frank Wilson, Mayor

Attest:


Karen Dunham, City Clerk